

HOUSE No. 1203

By Mr. Cabral of New Bedford, petition of Karen E. Spilka and Emile J. Goguen relative to the graduation requirements of school systems. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Governor shall appoint a special commission
2 to analyze graduation requirements for all public school students
3 in the commonwealth, which shall be composed of one individual
4 nominated by the Massachusetts Department of Education, the
5 Chairperson of the Massachusetts Board of Education or his nom-
6 inee, one individual nominated by the Massachusetts Association
7 of School Committees, one individual nominated by the Massa-
8 chusetts Secondary Schools Administrators' Association, Inc., one
9 individual nominated by the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, one indi-
10 vidual nominated by the Massachusetts Teachers Association, one
11 individual nominated by the Massachusetts Federation of
12 Teachers, one parent of a child attending a public school in
13 Massachusetts to be nominated by the remaining members of the
14 Board and one child attending a public school in Massachusetts to
15 be nominated by the remaining members of the Board. Said nomi-
16 nations shall be submitted to the office of the Governor no later
17 than ninety days from the date of the enactment hereof and shall
18 first meet in a location to be chosen by the Governor no later than
19 sixty days thereafter. The commission shall issue a report con-
20 taining recommended graduation requirements which shall create
21 standards for special education, vocational-technical education
22 and regular education students and which shall be comprised of
23 students' results on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assess-
24 ment System examinations, students' community service, stu-

25 dents' classroom grades and such other factors as the commission
26 shall determine. Such standards shall ensure that a student's
27 failure to meet any one component requirement shall not alone
28 prevent said student from receiving a high school diploma. The
29 commission shall also issue draft legislation to implement these
30 recommendations and shall submit both the recommendations and
31 the draft legislation to the Joint Committee on Education of the
32 General Court within one hundred twenty days of the commis-
33 sion's first meeting.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1D of chapter 69, as appearing in the
2 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting in line 59,
3 after the word "graduation," the following:—

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements
5 of the competency determination shall not be used as a graduation
6 requirement in any school system until said system's students
7 have completed their education in said system entirely under the
8 curriculum frameworks established by Chapter 71 of the Acts of
9 1993.